

In the late 1930s, Brown—who had been in ROTC in high school and college—got the call from Uncle Sam. He was to leave his Council Bluffs dental practice and report to the Army in two weeks.

In 1941, when he was 35, Brown was shipped off to the Philippines, not long before the Japanese attacked there. Out of supplies and with no reinforcements in sight, American forces and their Filipino allies surrendered after months of fighting in 1942.

The exact numbers vary somewhat from account to account, but more than 70,000 American and Filipino soldiers were captured. Overwhelmed with the task of transporting so many prisoners, the Japanese forced them to march north. Disease, thirst, hunger and killings marked the brutal ordeal, which lasted for days.

Brown recalled being lined up and forced to march with no food and no water. He said local civilians would approach and attempt to throw food to the marchers.

"The Japanese would beat the hell out of them," he said. "They'd go over there and take the butt of their rifle and just beat the hell out of those people, girls and boys, that threw stuff in there."

Brown also witnessed the beheading of a 17-year-old Marine, who was forced to the ground "on his hands and knees, and then they took the samurai sword out and severed his head."

Brown himself was stabbed.

"I started faltering and got to the back of the pack, and then the Japanese (soldier) came up and stuck a bayonet in my fanny and he yelled 'Speed-o!,' and I knew what 'speed-o' meant. I never was at the back of the pack after that."

At the prison camps in the Philippines, the violence and the shortages of food, medicine and water continued. Brown recalled how the temperature soared while the tens of thousands of men in camp relied on a single brass faucet for water. Fights would break out over places in line for that spigot, he said.

"Every drop in that canteen was your life."

Later, Brown was one of the soldiers packed into a "hell ship" to camps in Japan and China. He remained a prisoner until the end of the war.

He suffered numerous health problems as a result of his captivity, even losing his eyesight for a time.

Brown's memories also wind their way back to his childhood in North Platte. His father, an engineer with Union Pacific Railroad, was killed when a locomotive exploded in 1910.

The family lived a couple of blocks from William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Brown said his family became friends with the former Wild West hero, whom he described as a quiet man who liked to sit on their porch. As a child, Brown recalled, he would sit on Cody's lap and run a hand through his beard. "I don't know whether he liked that or not. Anyway, I kept doing it."

The family later moved to Council Bluffs, where Brown attended high school. He went to Creighton University's dental school.

He was quarterback of Creighton's football team and played as a forward on the basketball team. He received a medallion during the school's centennial celebration in 2005.

In the years after the war, Brown moved to Hollywood, where he met a number of movie stars, including John Wayne. He said he used to play handball with one of Wayne's sons.

Brown has retained his sense of humor and likes to throw a sly wink in with many of his jokes. He kidded that, during his trip to the East Coast, he had yet to find a girl to take back to Illinois, where he now lives with his daughter.

"I don't tell the girls I'm 102," he said, projecting his age to the milestone he'll hit later this year.

What's left for Brown to do? He suggested to Hagel that perhaps he could be a U.S. senator.

"We should make you a senator, and maybe we'd get some things done up here," Hagel replied.●

CONGRATULATING LANCE MACKEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Lance Mackey for being the first dog musher to win the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Yukon Quest Sled Dog Race—the world's two longest sled dog races—in the same year. He won both races earlier this year.

For those who are not familiar with both races, this is an incredible accomplishment. To put his feat into perspective, Lance Mackey and his dogs traveled a total distance that is equal to traveling between Boston, MA and Salt Lake City, UT.

The Yukon Quest Sled Dog race is a 1,000-mile annual international sled dog race between Whitehorse, Canada, and Fairbanks, AK. The trail follows a portion of the Yukon River and trails used by gold prospectors over 100 years ago. On February 20, 2007, in Fairbanks, he completed this sled dog race in a record time of 10 days, 2 hours, and 37 minutes.

Only 12 days after winning the Yukon Quest, Lance and 13 of his 16 dogs that completed the Yukon Quest race started the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. This race starts in Willow, AK and ends in Nome, AK, and is 1,100 miles long. The Iditarod trail originally started out as a supply route to numerous remote Alaska communities, including Nome. On March 13, 2007, Lance Mackey and his team completed this race in 9 days, 5 hours and 8 minutes.

Both of these races travel through numerous small, rural Alaska villages but most of the trails pass through nothing but pure wilderness. Lance and his fellow mushers had to race through blizzards, temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero, wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour, water overflows from partially frozen rivers and very rough terrain. Accidents due to terrain, trail conditions and other factors are not unusual. Occasionally, a moose will attack dog teams and mushers. Of course, these elements add additional challenges to these already arduous races. In fact, 21 mushers "scratched"—or withdrew—from the Iditarod this year.

As a throat cancer survivor, Lance has to always drink water after eating since his salivary glands were removed during cancer treatment. However, Lance Mackey continued to pursue victory and almost entirely shunned food and drink for the last 219 miles of the Iditarod in order to save time. In addition to that, he suffered from frostbite as he made his way to the finish line.

The conventional wisdom is that the same musher could not win both sled dog races in the same year. This year, Lance Mackey proved everyone wrong. We are proud of Lance and his dog

team for this unprecedented achievement. Once again, I congratulate Lance Mackey and his dog team and wish them continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR SHARON BRANSTITER

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, the late Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are individuals who say, 'This is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better.'"

I rise today with sadness because Oregon lost a true hero this past weekend with the passing of Sharon Branstiter, who had served as mayor of the wonderful community of Toledo since 1997. Few people have ever given more of their time, talents, and energy to make their community a better place than did Mayor Branstiter.

I consider myself very privileged to have called Sharon my friend. In my job, there are many people who will tell me what they think I want to hear. I always knew that Sharon would tell me what I needed to hear. She expressed her opinions with candor and eloquence, and she always made it very clear that the top item on her agenda was making Toledo a better and more beautiful place in which to live, work, and raise a family.

The Greek poet Sophocles wrote, "One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been." While the evening of Sharon's life came much too soon, I hope that her family and friends will take solace in the fact that Sharon could look back on a life filled with love and laughter, a life filled with accomplishment, and a life filled with making a positive difference and say that "the day has indeed been splendid."

I will never visit Toledo without thinking of Sharon, and I am confident that her work will live on through the good work of all those who call Toledo home.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 625. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office".

H.R. 1402. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building".

H.R. 1434. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment: